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while the relation of Herbart to modern educational thought seems never to have come to M. Letourneau's attention.

The value of the closing chapter, in which the education of the future is treated, may therefore be inferred. Of America, speaking of the struggle for wealth, he has this to say: "En Amérique, on le crie sur les toits, et la vénération pour le dollar est devenue une religion." This, with a few remarks on "le Décalogue du dollar," expresses his view of us.

It is in part the influence of works of this narrow character which keeps French primary education where it is, in a rut. Here is what professes to be a history, somewhat supplementary to Compayré; and yet it is written by a man who apparently has no access to German or Italian literature, and hence it is narrow in its view, harmful in its bias, and valueless in its bibliography.

What a contrast with a work like Schmid's *Geschichte der Erziehung*, the new Zweite Abteilung of the Vierter Band of which arrived by the same express with Letourneau!

DAVID EUGENE SMITH

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,
Brockport, N. Y.

Les Femmes dans la Science. Par A. REBIÈRE. Pp. 359 + ix.
Paris: Nony & Cie, 1897. 7 fr.

FOR those who are interested in the historical development of mathematics, and who recognize that upon occasion "the clock of time ticks drowsily behind the door and trifles become the amusement of the great and wise," this latest volume of M. Rebière will be a delight. Such a work was also his *Mathématiques et Mathématiciens*, which appeared a few years since—a book for a hammock in summer or an easy chair by the fireplace in winter. Mathematical readers have for some time been aware that the author's brochure which appeared some three years ago under the same title, *Les Femmes dans la Science*, was in process of expansion, and so the present work cannot fail of immediate and generous reception.

The plan is, however, quite different from that adopted in the conference before the Circle Saint-Simon, which formed the original edition. In the present work the encyclopædic arrangement is followed, the names appearing alphabetically. To this biographical matter 285 pages are devoted. This is followed by two interesting notes. In the

first he considers the question, "La femme est-elle capable de science?" To it he devotes thirty pages of quotations from various savants, known and unknown. While his sympathies are entirely with woman in science, he gives fair expression to both sides of the argument. Indeed, he opens the discussion by saying that such writers as Molière, Boileau, Joseph de Maistre, Proudhon, Schopenhauer, and many others, emphatically assent that woman is not capable of scientific attainments. It goes without saying that this kaleidoscope of opinions is anything but monotonous. It is rather interesting to note, however, that no mention is made of the opinion of Cantor, perhaps the world's greatest historian of mathematics, whose views of woman's achievements in the sciences are not very optimistic.

The second note, of thirty-five pages, is a scrapbook of miscellaneous quotations upon the subject. While impossible to classify the matter, the author has roughly arranged it under the topics (*a*) "Notules diverses, historiques, philosophiques," etc.; (*b*) "Pensées sur le sujet;" (*c*) "Anecdotes;" and (*d*) "Boutardes et paradoxes."

The work is embellished by twenty-five portraits, largely reproductions from contemporary line engravings and lithographs, and by half a dozen autograph letters.

In the way of selection, the author has included the name of every woman, apparently, who has sustained even remotest relation to science. Yet, while his generosity in this respect may be criticised, it cannot be denied that the book is so much the more valuable for reference. One is not obliged to read about the trivial contributions of unknown writers unless he wishes. On the other hand, in looking up the work of a woman like Mme. de Châtelet he will find a good résumé of her achievements, together with an excellent bibliography.

Of course, as in all continental works, the English and American names are often almost unrecognizable. Thus we have Professor Achsah, Mount Ely, among the A's as Achah Mount-Ely; Indianola, Iowa, appears as Indianapolis, Illinois, and the wife of the man who first made Laplace known in America is concealed under the name Boodwitch. But these blemishes are so common in French, German, and Italian works that they hardly attract attention. With all its faults the book is delightful reading, and will be appreciated by all who delve in the fields of mathematical history.

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